



John L. Salomone  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET  
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

**MAYOR STEPHEN WOODS**

## MINUTES

### NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 7:00 P.M.

**May 8, 2011**

**Mayor Woods called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Helen Nelson Room in Town Hall.**

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**II. ROLL CALL**

Councilor Borjeson  
Councilor Bottalico  
Councilor Castelle  
Councilor Cohen  
Councilor DelBuono  
Councilor Klett (left meeting at 8:05 p.m.)  
Councilor McBride  
Councilor Nagel  
Mayor Woods

Staff Present

John Salomone, Town Manager  
Ann Harter, Finance Director  
Lisa Rydecki, Deputy Finance Director  
Jamie Trevethan, Executive Assistant  
Linda Irish-Simpson – Clerk of the Council

**III. AWARDS/PROCLAMATIONS**

A. Street Naming: Dominic Mazzoccoli

Councilor Klett moved the following:

**WHEREAS, Former Mayor and State Representative Dominic Mazzoccoli has a long and  
noteworthy history of service to the Town of Newington; and**

**WHEREAS, Rep. Mazzoccoli is a 1970 graduate of Newington High School and a 1976 graduate  
of Central Connecticut State University with a Bachelors Degree in Earth Science; and**

**WHEREAS, Rep. Mazzoccoli is a United States Marine and Vietnam Era Veteran; and**

**WHEREAS, Rep. Mazzoccoli's lengthy and successful political career included one term on the Newington Town Council from 1981 – 1983, three terms as Mayor from 1985 – 1991 and three terms as State Representative for the Town from 1993 - 1999; and**

**WHEREAS, as Mayor, Rep. Mazzoccoli was responsible for the inception and completion of several important Town projects, most notably in negotiating an agreement between the Indian Hill Country Club and the Town and the creation of the Town Code of Ethics; and**

**WHEREAS, Rep. Mazzoccoli served on the Newington Volunteer Ambulance (NVA) Board of Directors and as Mayor he played an instrumental role in the completion of the NVA building project in 1989; and**

**WHEREAS, Rep. Mazzoccoli represented the Town as a member of the Metropolitan District and the Capitol Region Council of Governments; and**

**WHEREAS, the Newington Town Council wishes to recognize Rep. Mazzoccoli for his stewardship of the Town's citizens through his invaluable contributions to the Town's advancement and his countless hours of volunteer service;**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Newington Town Council hereby renames Mill Street in honor of Dominic Mazzoccoli as a token of appreciation for his outstanding commitment to the Town of Newington and its residents.**

Mayor Woods commented that Mr. Mazzoccoli had earned the honor for all his hard work throughout the years and though Mr. Mazzoccoli might have had disagreements with others, he always had the interests of Newington at heart. He indicated that Mr. Mazzoccoli was one of the reasons he decided to get involved in politics because of the type of person he was. Mayor Woods hoped that renaming Mill Street Extension, Mazzoccoli Way, showed in some small way how much he was appreciated.

Councilor Klett indicated that many people had turned out for in his honor, former Council members, former Mayors and his family. She stated there was nobody else in politics she had worked with that she had such deep respect for. Councilor Klett said that no matter what was being discussed, Mr. Mazzoccoli always had a smile on his face. She deeply appreciated everything that he did.

Mr. Mazzoccoli thanked everyone for the honor and for everyone who came out to see him. He said it was great to be back in the Helen Nelson Room and remembered all the hours spent in it but even though it took time away from families, the interests of the Council were always in the right place.

Councilor DelBuono read a letter from former Mayor Wright into the record:

**Dear Newington Town Council,**

**I would like to take a moment to congratulate y'all for your wisdom and judgment in honoring a great man and leader with the re-naming of Mill Street. Tonight you will honor Mayor Dominic Mazzoccoli for a lifetime of service, commitment, integrity and leadership to his family,**

**neighbors, and the town of Newington, the State of Connecticut, United States of America and Jesus Christ, by naming it Mazzoccoli Way.**

**Mayor Mazzoccoli has spent his life fighting for these causes and ideals, which he believes in his core. Today the Mayor is battling ALS in the same fashion he has always done, head-on with unquestioned courage. Dom, I know you will never give up and once again, you are setting another positive example for us all. On a personal note, I can never thank you enough for your insight, support, advice, and friendship; I will always consider you “my Mayor”. Alexander the Great said “I am not afraid of an army of lions led by a sheep, but I am afraid of an army of sheep led by a lion”; you led as a lion, God Bless you and Semper Fidelis!**

**Sincerely,  
Jeff Wright**

Councilor Bottalico congratulated Mr. Mazzoccoli and indicated they had served together for two years on the Council and had had a lot of fun. Councilor Cohen stated it was Mr. Mazzoccoli who had persuaded her to run for the Town Council, which was not an easy decision since she had to change parties. The decision to get involved in politics had changed her life and she thanked Mr. Mazzoccoli.

Councilor Nagel congratulated Mr. Mazzoccoli and wanted to echo all the previous comments. He had known about Mr. Mazzoccoli's accomplishments for a long time but it wasn't until five or six years ago when he met him after deciding to run for Town Council. He appreciated Mr. Mazzoccoli's experience, guidance, wisdom and input during conversations over the years. He wished Mr. Mazzoccoli good luck in his fight and was delighted there was a Mazzoccoli Way in Newington. Councilor McBride stated he never served with Mr. Mazzoccoli but it was clear that his service to the Town, State and Country spoke volumes about his core values.

Councilor DeBuono thanked Mr. Mazzoccoli for all of his service to the Town. She stated it was nice to have someone to look up to as a Republican and indicated that his list of accomplishments was amazing. She wished him well in his battle.

Karen, Mr. Mazzoccoli's daughter, introduced her family and thanked everyone who came to see her father receive the proclamation, which was a great honor. Councilor Klett indicated there would be an ALS fund raiser on June 30 at 6 p.m. at the Sphinx Temple in Berlin.

Former Mayor Rodney Mortenson: He congratulated Mr. Mazzoccoli on this honor and said that he looked up to him for a long time. It struck him when he read the sign would read “Mazzoccoli Way” since he felt naming it “Way” had a lot of meaning. He wished him well in his fight.

Tom Ganley, 233 Goodale Drive: He remembered a marathon he ran with Dom and several friends. Mr. Mazzoccoli ended up running back to the start and Mr. Ganley would get a ride back after starting a 1/3 of the way into the course. He appreciated all the fun and chats they had and it was great serving under Mr. Mazzoccoli.

Joe Harpy, 36 Baldwin Court: He congratulated Mr. Mazzoccoli on his honor. He remembered Dom asking for a loan to start a business downtown and years later Dom reminded him that it was his investment in downtown that started the growth. He remarked on Dom's ability to see things through no matter how many obstacles were in front of him. He indicated that Mr. Mazzoccoli was instrumental in having girls softball become part of the Little League and coached a softball team as well. He wished Dom well as well as his family.

Karen Mortenson Cody (no address): She grew up with Mr. Mazzoccoli and went all through school together. She wanted Dom to know that the Class of 1970 was there to support him and they would be there to help him fight ALS.

Michael Fox, 1901 Main Street: He stated that Mr. Mazzoccoli was instrumental in him getting involved in politics since he was a Democrat and did not want to live in a town run by Republicans but found he was able to. He said the former Mayor did a good job in Town and in Hartford. He said it was Mr. Mazzoccoli who started the Balf Town Committee and when it became a Commission, Mr. Fox had been on it ever since. He congratulated Dom on the renaming of the street and Mr. Fox will be at the fund raiser on June 30.

Bill Lombardi, Southington: He grew up in Newington and was part of the Class of 1970. He always admired Dom since he was always polite, friendly and never had a bad word for anyone. He remembered pumping gas together with Dom and Steve.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen and passed 9 – 0.

#### **IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL**

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: She stated she was disappointed that the Blight Ordinance could exempt the Town from the rules and felt the Town should be held responsible.

Michael Fox, 1901 Main Street: He indicated there was a cleanup which went well and will be holding more in the future. Mr. Fox said the he would like to have the jersey barriers moved on Cedar Street since there were piles of materials that need to be removed from the trails. He said there will be a picnic on May 27 to remove more debris with any volunteers who wanted to go. Mr. Fox stated it was too late to stop the busway, but he said they might be taking the right of way for Amtrak and might also have to take the Newington Junction Railroad Depot. He asked that the Depot be saved since it was added to the National Register of Historic Sites in 1986. (Mayor Woods indicated that the Depot would be saved).

#### **V. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A. Appoint Auditor**

Councilor Castelle moved the following:

#### **RESOLVED:**

**Per Section 610 of the Newington Town Charter, the firm of Blum Shapiro is hereby appointed as auditor for the Town of Newington for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012; said firm agrees to file a complete report on or before December 15, 2012.**

John Salomone stated this resolution was done each year and that the firm sent a different auditor each year as well as different managers to review the material each year.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Nagel and the motion passed 9 – 0.

##### **B. Blight Ordinance Updates**

Councilor Klett indicated there was a subcommittee meeting held and recommendations were made by the TPZ and the Town Attorney. She said a copy of the recommendations had been given to all Council members for their review and the item will be added to the next Council agenda and a public hearing will be reconvened to get public comment. She stated she had asked for an updated blighted list from the new Town Planner but that National Welding may be the only property on the list.

#### **VI. CONSIDERATION OF NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. ICE Program Funding**

John Salomone stated it was in conjunction with other projects being done with Wethersfield, Rocky Hill and Berlin. The Towns had a meeting with CRCOG and felt the towns could share a new bucket truck. The truck would be able to reach two times farther than the existing truck. The towns were requesting about 50% of the funding and the rest of the cost would be split equally between all the Towns. He indicated the agreement would be available for the Council when it was written, the truck will be stored at one of the Towns, still to be decided and the approximate cost to the Town would be \$25k. Mr. Salomone indicated the item would be added to the Council's next meeting agenda.

**B. Upcoming Building Projects**

1. **Newington High School Music Wing**
2. **Newington High School Career/Technical Education Wing**
3. **John Wallace School Career/Technical Education Wing**
4. **Martin Kellogg School Career/Technical Education Wing**
5. **Town Hall Roof**

Mr. Salomone stated that each of the above projects were separate projects and each had to be separate to get processed through the system. There was only one number for all of the items but must be listed as separate items. Mayor Woods said the information in the Council's packet indicated the money for the high school music wing was being approved in 2012 and should be 2013-14 and Mr. Salomone agreed. Mayor Woods asked that the Building Committee oversee the project at the high school. Mayor Woods stated that items 2,3,4 would require a new building committee consisting of possibly two Council members and one representative from the Board of Education. Mayor Woods indicated that item 5 was the reimbursement for the Transitions/Human Services Department and wanted to maximize whatever the Town could get from the State. Mr. Salomone said that reimbursement would be much less since there were offices included in the request. The reimbursement would not be 53% but closer to 25%.

Mayor Woods stated he would talk to Dr. Collins regarding the wording of his April 27, 2012 memo and get back to the Council.

**C. Discussion: Long Range CIP**

John Salomone gave an overview of the Council adopted CIP. It represented budget items for next fiscal year and the four years after next fiscal year. He referred them to page 22 with a chart indicating various debt, pay as you go programs and how the Town could maintain a consistent tax rate over the next ten years.

Mr. Salomone reviewed various projects listed as public safety, roof project, Park and Rec Department, public works, and pay-as-you-go projects. Major decisions may have to be made in the future regarding the Parks since not a lot of funding was included in the CIP. He indicated most of the Board of Education projects were listed as pay-as-you-go. A lot of the projects would be done without the need for bonding.

**VII. RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS**

- A. Appointments to Boards and Commissions
1. Audit Committee
  2. Balf-Town Committee
  3. Newington Commercial Façade Easement Rehabilitation Loan Program Committee
  4. Clem Lemire Artificial Turf Project Building Committee
  5. Committee on Community Safety
  6. Conservation Commission
  7. Development Commission
  8. Downtown Revitalization Committee
  9. Education Facilities Project Building Committee
  10. EMS Committee
  11. Employee Insurance and Pension Benefits Committee
  12. Environmental Quality Commission
  13. Board of Ethics
  14. Fair Rent Commission
  15. Firehouse Expansion Project Building Committee
  16. Human Rights Commission
  17. NHS Track Renovation Project Building Committee
  18. Open Space Committee
  19. School Code Compliance Committee
  20. Standing Insurance Committee
  21. Town Plan and Zoning Commission
  22. Vehicle Appeals Board

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

**RESOLVED:**

**That the Newington Town Council hereby makes the following appointment:**

**AUDIT COMMITTEE**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Term</b>
<b>Clarke Castelle</b>	<b>167 Connecticut Ave</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>NTC TERM</b>
<b>Scott McBride</b>	<b>211 Beacon Street</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>NTC TERM</b>
<b>Dave Nagel</b>	<b>1175 Willard Avenue</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>NTC TERM</b>

The motion was seconded by Councilor Cohen. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett-absent)

**VIII. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

A. Regular Meeting, April 24, 2012

There was a change to be made on page 4, Section C, Line 4 from Nichols to Nagel.

A motion to accept the amended minutes was made by Councilor Borjeson and seconded by Councilor Nagel.

The motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett-absent)

**IX. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC**

John Salomone stated that the Market Square project would be substantially complete in a week. He indicated the banner poles were installed. The first banner to go up would be the Town banner to announce the Market Square Shopping Area and have the website listed underneath it. The banner space would be utilized in the future by tax exempt organizations within the community to announce events instead of using the current bulletin boards. Five or six organizations have expressed interest in utilizing the banners. He said a banner raising event should be organized soon.

**X. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Nagel gave an update on the television meeting he attended. 1) NCTV will institute late night programming at 1 a.m. These will be programs that were previously recorded. 2) discussion was held about a grant application for wiring and materials needed for the downstairs location where Town meetings will be scheduled in the future. 3) discussion on the upcoming Memorial Day parade 4) indicated there was an increase in watching of programming from options other than TV like iTunes, etc.

Councilor McBride discussed the progress on Market Square. There were small things that needed to be completed. He thought the sign pole was a great idea and went to the heart of the project, which was to make the street a destination.

Councilor Nagel indicated there would be a volunteer dinner on May 17 at 5 p.m. at the Senior and Disabled Center. He said that May is Senior Month and the Center has different activities going on under the theme, "You Are Never Too Old To Play." Councilor Nagel said that the coffee shop would be reopening on June 5.

Mayor Woods attended a pre-construction meeting for the Busway. He indicated that the lowering of the bridge over Cedar Street has been incorporated into the Busway project. There will be separate funding for the bridge but it will be part of the Busway project. The contractor indicated it would take approximately two weeks to

complete the bridge. Mayor Woods stated the project should be starting early to mid-June with a ribbon cutting in Hartford on May 22. Councilor McBride expressed concern over the structural integrity of the bridge and Mr. Salomone indicated that there were deficiencies in the bridge and the project would have been done with or without the Busway.

#### **XI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL**

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Mrs. Lyons 1) thanked Mayor Woods for his update on the DOT meeting and asked if other meetings would be open to the public and if a committee could be set up consisting of the public and Council members to oversee the DOT project. She indicated concern about the intersection of Willard Avenue and Westhill, which was a very dangerous intersection. 2) She thanked Councilor McBride for his update regarding Market Square and 3) she attended the Cox Cable Advisory Council meeting because she had only a basic starter plan with Cox whose rate will go up 30% if she wants to continue to watch NCTV. She indicated the Council gave her a letter they had sent to the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission since they had received many complaints from residents and she asked the public to write to the Council so they could present the residents' concerns to the Public Utilities Regulatory Commission.

#### **XII. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS**

Councilor Borjeson expressed a concern over the upcoming trash contract regarding procurement. He indicated that there was language in the Charter that restricted the Town Manager from making the best possible decision on contracts and thought that the Charter Revision Committee should take a look at it to provide more flexibility. John Salomone indicated that the area was tricky and there was a lot of case law on the subject regarding bidders who have sued towns when they were rejected. Councilor Borjeson indicated that Sandy Nafis and CRCOG would be presenting a Busway presentation in the near future so that some of the fears and concerns regarding the Busway could be relieved.

#### **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:45 p.m. by Councilor Bottalico and seconded by Councilor DelBuono. The motion passed 8 -0 (Councilor Klett-absent).

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Irish-Simpson

Linda Irish-Simpson  
Clerk of the Council